



# *COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*

JOHN J. PEZZOLI  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

*DEPARTMENT OF  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES*

Post Office Box 1797  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921  
Fax (804) 371-6638  
[www.dbhds.virginia.gov](http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov)

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** CSB Executive Directors  
CSB ID Directors  
DBHDS Training Center Directors  
DBHDS Central Office Staff

**FROM:** Connie Cochran, Assistant Commissioner,  
Division of Developmental Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "CC", located to the right of the "FROM:" line.

**DATE:** February 20, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Developmental Disabilities Health Supports Networks of Virginia (DDHSN)

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) is pleased to announce the initiation of a program, Developmental Disabilities Health Supports Networks of Virginia (DDHSN), designed to transition, maintain and enhance services currently provided to community residents through DBHDS Training Centers. These services are transitioning into each region as part of DBHDS' planned closures of Training Centers.

For over a decade, DBHDS Training Centers have successfully operated Regional Community Support Centers (RCSC). The RCSCs are becoming a health support network that provides services such as dental care, behavioral support, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, wheelchair and other environmental modifications. In addition, a major new focus of the expanded programs will be assisting in the development and enhancement of clinical services by local providers throughout Virginia.

Since April 2013, Dr. Dale Woods, former director of Southwestern and Central Virginia Training Centers, and an advisory group made up representatives of constituency groups from across the Commonwealth have worked to develop a plan for transition of important services currently provided by the RCSCs.

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Objectives include:

- ensuring clinical supports are provided for individuals living in community settings;
- giving individuals leaving a Training Center required clinical supports;
- assuring access to highly qualified and experienced clinicians to support individuals;
- maintaining consistency of supports, while recognizing that needs may be different in other areas of the Commonwealth; and
- ensuring that supports exist to allow expansion of enhanced clinical services throughout the Commonwealth.

A proposal for transition of RCSC type services was developed and has now been approved. The advisory group recommended that the RCSC services be renamed the Developmental Disabilities Health Supports Networks of Virginia (DDHSN). Plans are to establish community-based DDHSNs in the five regions currently served by the five DBHDS-operate Training Centers on a phased basis. Funds saved from the downsizing of Southside Virginia Training Center (SVTC) in Petersburg will be used to begin implementation of the first DDHSN in Health Planning Region 4 – the region served by SVTC. SVTC is scheduled to close on or before June 30, 2014.

Dr. Woods will meet with SVTC and Region 4 representatives in the next few weeks to initiate the implementation process in that area. Additional funding has been requested for expansion of the DDHSNs in other regions, and the General Assembly will consider this financing during the current session.

c: John J. Pezzoli, Acting Commissioner  
Dr. Dale Woods